

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 15 are pending in the case. Currently, claims 1 - 11 and 13 - 15 stand rejected and claim 12 stands objected to.

By the present amendment, claim 12 has been placed into independent form and thus is now allowable.

In the office action mailed March 9, 2004, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,986,779 to Beckershoff; and claims 3, 4, 7 - 9, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Beckershoff.

The foregoing rejections are traversed by the present response.

The present invention relates to an assembly for preventing rotation of a damper in a stator system. The assembly comprises a slot in said damper and a block for engaging said slot and thereby preventing said rotation of said damper.

In the office action mailed March 9, 2004, the Examiner objected to the Abstract. Included herein is an amendment to the Abstract which overcomes the objection.

Further in said office action, the Examiner objected to the drawings. The drawings have been amended to designate the brazing material of claim 12 by a reference number and to show the plane 3 - 3.

Still further in said office action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure. Appropriate corrections are made herein.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, and 14 over Beckershoff, a review of this patent shows that it has nothing to do with the claimed invention. The Beckershoff

patent is directed to a locking device for releasable fastening parts to **rotors** of fluid flow machines (see the Abstract; also see Brief Description of FIG. 1 which clearly says that FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a rotor disk). Referring now to FIGS. 1 - 3 of Beckershoff, there is illustrated a rotor (3) having a plurality of fixing slots (2) into which an interconnect piece (1) is to be placed. The interconnect piece (1) has a foot (5) with a groove (10) and a fastening element (7) for securing an interconnect piece in a slot (2). The fastening element (7) includes a key (7") which fits into the groove (10) which forms a keyway and a spring (7') for holding the key (7") in place. There is absolutely nothing in the Beckershoff patent which relates to an assembly for preventing rotation of a damper in a stator system.

Claim 1 is allowable because Beckershoff fails to teach or suggest a slot in a damper in a stator system and a block for engaging the slot and thereby preventing the rotation of said damper.

Claim 2 is allowable over Beckershoff because Beckershoff does not have an inner air seal and a block located in a groove machined in the inner air seal.

Claim 5 is allowable because Beckershoff does not teach or suggest a block whose side edges are brazed (a mechanical structural limitation) to side edges of the groove.

Claim 6 is allowable because Beckershoff does not teach or suggest a block having the claimed structure. The so-called chamfered edges in Beckershoff do not facilitate placement of the block within the groove.

Claim 10 is allowable because Beckershoff has no relationship to a stator system for an engine and lacks the claimed stator, inner air seal, damper and block.

Claim 11 is allowable because Beckershoff lacks the claimed groove machined in the inner air seal and the block positioned within the groove.

Claim 13 is allowable for the same reason that claim 6 is allowable.

Claim 14 is allowable because Beckershoff has no spring damper.

With regard to the rejection of claims 3, 4, 7 - 9 and 15 on obviousness grounds, at a minimum, these claims are allowable for the same reasons as their parent claims. These claims are also allowable for the following reasons.

Claim 3 is allowable because Beckershoff lacks an inner air seal. Thus, there would be no reason to locate a block at the mid span of the inner air seal.

Claim 4 is allowable because there is no reason to provide Beckershoff with a groove in an inner air seal having a depth which is from about 50 to 65% of the block height.

Claim 7 is allowable because there is no reason to form anything which can be called a block in Beckershoff from a metallic material.

Claim 9 is allowable because there is no reason to provide the spring element in Beckershoff with the claimed sidewalls and rounded edge portions.

Claim 15 is allowable for the same reason that claim 3 is allowable.

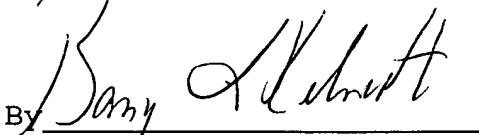
The instant application is believed to be allowable for the foregoing reasons. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response.
Should the Commissioner determine that a fee is due, he is
hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

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I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on June 9, 2004.

